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Statement submitted by New Progressive Alliance, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08575 (E) 050615

Please recycle

Statement

The most important factor in sustainable development goals is sustainable environmental progress in the face of climate change which has already started. Given the predictions of the vast majority of scientists on future generations this is the most important issue we should be addressing right now. It will be greatly affect all eight of the Millennium Developmental Goals.

A major problem in preventing climate change is governments and the World Bank subsidizes and supports fossil fuels more than renewable energy. A remedy would be if the United Nations listed for every country the ratio of subsidies for fossil fuel to subsidies for renewable energy. A reasonable initial goal would be to have subsidies for renewable energy be equal to or greater than subsidies for fossil fuel.

The cost of using fossil fuels is rising. It consistently costs the United States well over ten billion dollars a year for fossil fuel subsidies. It recently rose from 12.7 billion in 2009 to 18.5 billion in 2013. These subsidies include tax breaks, incentives for production on federal lands (such as royalty fees that haven't been adjusted in 25 years) and tax deductions for clean-up costs. If state subsidies for oil, gas and coal production are also included, the total value climbs to $21.6 billion for 2013. It is estimated that the world will spend an extra $8 trillion over the next 25 years to prolong the use of non-renewable resources, a cost that would be eliminated by eventually transitioning instead to 100% renewable energy. There are also externalities — such as healthcare costs due to pollution, government guaranteed loans, environmental destruction through mountaintop removal for coal, tar sands oil drilling, fracking for natural gas, and wars for oil and uranium. Also consistently ignored is the price for adjusting to the effects of global climate change — even if possible — is far greater than the cost of stopping global warming at this stage. Unlike the climbing costs of fossil fuels, the cost of renewable energy is declining and has been for decades.

One should be able to compare with each country the total subsidies for fossil fuels with the total subsidies for renewable energy. Of course, the United Nations and the World Bank should never again subsidize fossil fuels for developing nations.

Let renewable energy play on a level playing field with fossil fuels and it will expand even faster and lessen the degree of climate change. Publishing where countries are really spending their money would allow groups such as the New Progressive Alliance to push them in the right direction.

The above is documented under "Costs" in the article *The Environment* available at http://www.newprogs.org/the_environment_under_the_democratic_republican_uniparty.

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Statement submitted by CLIPSAS, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

Over the past 50 years, humans have multiplied - their population, physical possessions, the flow of merchandises and energy they use. But, if growth solved some problems, it can create others. Our economies are over dependent on fossil energies.

Our species' whole recorded history has taken place in the Holocene stretching back 10,000 years. But our collective actions have brought us into uncharted territory in less than 250 years! The very new Anthropocene epoch began when industrial revolution has had a significant global impact on the Earth's ecosystems.

Since the 1970s, the crisis is regularly at the center of all policies. The latest consequences of neoliberalism lead to austerity plans that reinforce social inequities. 'Sustainable degrowth' is as a way out of social, economic and ecological crisis affecting our societies.

Sustainable development does not call into question the principle of economic growth and maintains the hope to reconcile capitalist accumulation, social justice and planet preservation. Unfortunately since the 70s, the Western model of society is unbearable as such; it is urgent to stop trying to export it to the rest of the world.

In addition, the technological options do get into a terribly uncertain territory. The end of the industrial era may be delayed as a result of technological change, but the technological miracle probably will not happen.

And finally, thanks to the transhumanism, the reinvented man would be able to survive in a polluted and socially, environmentally degraded world. But ethical and moral prudence remains widely questioned by an approach leading humanity into unknown and dangerous territories.

Sustainable degrowth means a tool of imaginary decolonization. This term, as opposed to 'sustainable development', is not recoverable, and not reusable by the society of growth.

Temporary, the word 'degrowth' will persist as long as the religion of growth will continue to exist. 'Degrowth' is the word given to the transition from a society of growth, to a society without growth.

Talking about sustainable degrowth allows us to denounce the inconsistencies of growth. That does not mean any negative growth, but an absence of growth. A slowdown in the 1/5th of humanity which consumes 4/5th of resources is necessary to enable an acceleration of the other 4/5th of humanity.

The desire to preserve 'the love of the world' is questioning the anthropocentric characteristic of Western modernity.

A chosen sustainable degrowth, instead of an imposed negative growth revisits the notion of progress in order to allow a sustainable development that contributes to a sense of social solidarity.

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Statement submitted by International Presentation Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Statement

International Presentation Association is present in twenty-two countries.

Sustainable development goals, targets and indicators must incorporate the existing international human rights normative framework. Human Rights are predicated on the ideal that all humans are born equal in rights and in dignity, where people are "right holders" and governments are "duty bearers". This ideal must constitute the beating heart of the sustainable development goals, giving them life and force.

Particular attention must be paid towards realising the rights of indigenous peoples with reference to the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People. Indigenous people need to be embraced as full partners in the sustainable development process, fully respecting the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

Recognising the significant role international migration plays in development, and framing migration policies which respect and protect human rights, must include the right to migrate. Taxes on migrant remittances must therefore be reduced.

In addressing extreme poverty and income inequalities, systemic issues such as tax evasion must be addressed through international cooperation in creating a just global tax ecosystem. Tax planning and tax evasion, which exploit weak provisions and tax havens, have contributed to the exploitation of developing nations — particularly that perpetrated by the extractive industries. Progressive taxation must help create level playing fields to reign in excessive wealth and extreme poverty.

On an international level, cancellation of debt for the least developed countries is necessary to stop the untenable drain of resources that servicing these debts inflicts. The benefits of debt cancellation transfer directly into promoting development, resulting in sustained investment in social programs to reduce poverty and improve quality of life. Debt cancellation requires an accompanying increase in the official development assistance commitment.

Sustainable development goals must be a government driven process where all actors are held accountable, including the private sector. Binding regulations based on The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights must be enforced to ensure business practices and their effects are contributing positively to development and protection of human rights.

Putting people at the centre of development requires building their capacity to participate responsibly as partners in development. Universal social protection floors are a means of building this capacity, ensuring the right to gender-sensitive education, health, and provision of water and sanitation. Local communities should be encouraged to develop community based agriculture and small and medium sized businesses where people can regain ownership of the development process and be actors in effectively combating poverty.

Non-governmental organizations and civil society organisations are crucial partners in the implementation of the sustainable development goals and in the gathering of real disaggregated data at the grass roots level.

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Statement submitted by Legião da Boa Vontade, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08578 (E) 050615

Please recycle

Statement

We present our recommendations for the debate in two strands:

(a) social technology successfully adopted in our work with vulnerable populations; and

(b) proposals compiled from multiple public consultations carried out in South American countries.

Educating and providing people with the tools they need for sustainable development: the key to the success of the post-2015 agenda.

The recommendations set out here directly contribute to reaching one of the goals proposed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Over the last few years we have sent to the United Nations proposals that can also be applied to this goal, and we believe that if this goal is achieved then it will create a positive chain reaction for the other development objectives: "By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development".

We propose that this approach be incorporated in a concrete way within different public policies, particularly in schools and social development programs. We know that measures like these, even though they are always considered praiseworthy, are sometimes underestimated in the role of fighting poverty and promoting sustainability. Our experience shows, however, that they are the most effective ones, because they reach the heart of the problem.

A great part of the development models and responses to financial, social, and environmental crises are still excessively centered on the economic aspect rather than on the well-being of individuals, who should be considered in all aspects. As a result, our societies, even some of the richest, produce unhappy people and, ultimately, sick people. The high rates of depression are evidence of this phenomenon. Depression used to be considered an illness characteristic of rich countries, but today it is the one that is most prevalent among women from high-, middle- and low-income countries. The World Health Organization estimates that by 2030 depression will become the most common disease in the world.

Given this situation, renowned specialists emphasized the need to act on the "social determinants" of mental health. Even poverty reduction programs must be analysed in light of the impact they might have on the psychiatric well-being of their target public. After all, anxiety disorders, chronic stress, and depression have been transformed into a global epidemic and are aggravated by other social ills, among them the increase in violence (real and perceived). Since these processes are self-perpetuating, the prognosis for them cause considerable concern. This is why it is increasingly urgent to act on the causes that are at the heart of these issues, as the following extract indicates: "Everyone is deeply concerned with the savagery that dominates the Earth, in search of a solution to reduce, at the very least, the violence that has left the hidden places, the dark early hours, and has gone out onto our streets and into our homes, because it has invaded people's minds. There is today,

however, a growing understanding that if there is violence, it is not just a problem for governments and police organizations in particular, but it is a challenge for all of us in society. If it has left the dark night and showed itself to us in the light of day it is because it inhabits the innermost part of human beings. If it exists in the souls and in the hearts, it will be present wherever human beings may be. Therefore, it is in the hearts and souls of individuals that it must first be fought against.

Fighting against the various forms of violence that affect individuals in their innermost being goes far beyond providing them with access to resources and basic services. It also means strengthening their resilience and preventing family and community ties from being weakened. As a result, we have managed to interrupt the process of social degradation that many families experience, by offering them the conditions necessary for them to reorganize themselves and reassume their role in the community.

This result does not happen by chance. There are solid scientific evidences correlating health/well-being and happiness, happiness and spirituality, and this is present in the work we do. A series of research studies demonstrate a relationship between spirituality and lower rates of stress and depression, greater levels of happiness, positive emotions, civic ideas, healthy behaviour, longevity, and even cognitive capacity.

We have systematized the experience of allying social and educational actions with spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical — that is universal — values in the most diverse social and cultural contexts. In doing so, we have produced a replicable and innovative social technology. Dozens of pieces of academic research, whose object of study is our social and educational work, have already been concluded or are currently on-going. Below are the main strands of our work:

(a) Structured social and educational programs — We currently have 30 main programs, which are developed by our multidisciplinary teams. These programs involve hundreds of workshops and projects. They are aimed at pregnant women, early childhood, children and teenagers, youth and adults, people who live on the streets, the elderly, the elderly who have been separated from their family nucleus, community leaders, and professionals from civil society organizations. The programs have several objectives, among which are productive social inclusion, food safety, social protection, the strengthening of family and community ties, improvements in health indicators, and advocacy.

(b) Educational proposal and work methodology — The book É Urgente Reeducar! [It is Urgent to Re-educate!] contains the principles of our teaching method, which have been widely talked about since the 1980s in lectures and in the press by educator Paiva Netto. In 2000, we presented the main aspects of this message to the UN in various languages. Another publication, Educação com Espiritualidade Ecumênica — Manual da Pedagogia do Afeto e da Pedagogia do Cidadão Ecumênico [Education with Ecumenical Spirituality — the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy Manual] presents the practical reference points of the MAPREI (Learning Method through Rational-Emotional-Intuitive Research), which was developed by our educators based on our teaching line.

(c) Culture of Peace and Ecumenical Citizenship — We have created a curricular proposal for our social and educational programs that values self-

knowledge, Spirituality, protagonism, and respect for religious and philosophical pluralism. At the beginning of each activity we encourage meditation and/or prayer. The projects reinforce solidary and sustainable behaviour.

(d) Social communication and education — We constantly produce content for radio, television, and the Internet on education, citizenship, human rights, social work, sustainability, complete health, and other topics, which are all in line with our curricular proposal. We supply our teachers and social workers with instructional materials directed towards their constant improvement, and it is made available to the general public.

(e) Meetings and workshops — Held periodically in the countries where we operate, they count on specialists in the topics being developed and on our professionals who act as the multipliers of our practices. These events are aimed at schools, universities, civil society organizations, trade unions, boards of education, and other social actors. The main event we hold is our International Education Congress, which started at the beginning of the 1990s and is in its 14th edition. It has taken place in cities like São Paulo (Brazil) and Porto (Portugal).

These strands help produce "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being", which defines health, as established in the Constitution of the World Health Organization. This definition is much wider than the mere absence of illness or infirmity and it is in line with our approach to social problems which aims to modify their deep-rooted causes, as the following extract suggests: "It is not enough to consider citizens just in their physical context. They have to be considered also in their spiritual context, because any component of human group is, in short, formed by body and Soul. After all, we are Spirit by origin. This is the complete meaning of citizenship.

The many voices of Latin America

Also with the objective of contributing to the debate on the post-2015 development agenda, we held the 11th Solidary Society Network Multi-stakeholder Forum — 7th Innovation Fair, in support of the Council's Annual Ministerial Review. In October and November of 2014, the capital cities of Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay hosted meetings between representatives from civil society organizations, universities, companies, governments, and UN entities; the topic on the agenda was "Sustainable Citizen Education". Representing the United Nations system were the Information Centers, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Associated Schools. In the event, which was supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, participants drew attention to the need for governments to:

(a) implement educational initiatives on sustainability aimed at various population groups (age-related, region-related, etc.) based on research. This should be done in order to foster sustainable lifestyles, in other words, the adoption of daily practices of conscious consumption, recycling, composting, shared use of resources, saving resources, among others;

(b) create or consolidate mechanisms for citizens to become mobilized and demand actions from government in several areas, such as education and sustainability;

(c) provide support for educational institutions (early childhood, primary, secondary education; university; open courses) so that they can adapt their own curricula in order to develop sustainability content and practices. To do so, they must train their teams and supply them with the tools that enable them to use attractive and diversified strategies that involve not only the students, but also their families and the community;

(d) encourage schools to periodically coordinate educational activities on sustainability in the green areas in their neighbourhoods. Adults living in the region would also participate in order to encourage the community to become engaged in conserving these areas;

(e) create or strengthen educational programs aimed at youth who are not attending regular schools. These programs must be adapted to meet the needs of these young people in order to overcome basic educational deficiencies and assist their entry to the formal labour market.

In Paraguay, our Solidary Society Network Multi-stakeholder Forum also focused on the subtopic "Sustainable Agriculture", which recommendations can be found in the Good Will magazine.

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Statement submitted by All India Women's Conference, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08579 (E) 050615

Please recycle

Statement

Review of the achievements under the Millennium Development Goals conducted by governments as well as a number of civil society organizations have highlighted several loopholes within the policies as well as between policy and implementation strategy. The transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals, therefore, primarily needs to fill in the identified gaps and then take a transformative approach to ensure social inclusion for all, undeterred economic growth and a clean and secure environment. Policies and programmes under the sustainable development goals should be cohesive in nature, prioritize a more secure world, look at the root cause in parallel with endeavouring to eradicate poverty, protect the planet's natural resources, ensure equal opportunity for everyone and provide quality healthcare and education for all.

Integrated approach to sustainable development has been one of our successfully tried and tested agenda and with that experience, we suggest that:

(a) The sustainable development goals should adopt a holistic implementation strategy.

(b) A bottom up approach needs to be ensured while framing policies and programs. Countries should agree to the global goals with clear understanding that they will have mandate to translate such global goals and targets to the national level in a manner that respects the specific circumstances of the country.

(c) Transparency, accountability and rule of law should form the basis of all the sustainable development goals related policies and implementation strategy at the global as well as national level.

(d) Gender needs to be mainstreamed across all the goals and targets and the stand alone goal on women's empowerment should have a matching ambitious means of implementation.

(e) Parties need to ensure regular participation of civil society organizations and women's organization throughout the process of formation of policies and implementation at the global as well as national level. There should also be equal participation of CSOs in the global monitoring group.

(f) Capacity building and financing mechanism needs to be concretized to strengthen national capacities and further filter down to regional civil society organizations to facilitate effective participation and service delivery.

(g) All the data collected should be disaggregated on the basis of age, sex, gender, geography, disability, income, ethnicity and other relevant factors for monitoring inequalities.

(h) Equal and differentiated responsibilities must be largely recognized, integrated and should form basis for crafting commitments and responsibilities under the goals and development agenda. National priorities must reflect distinctly in the schemes and policies adopted by government at the regional level.

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Statement submitted by Children's Project International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08580 (E) 090615

Please recycle

Statement

Fifteen years ago, the global community made a commitment to shared progress in the form of the Millennium Development Goals. Since then we have done our part to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals mission with programmes promoting primary education as a fundamental right for all children, medical interventions to combat malaria and water-borne diseases and mobile clinics providing primary care for underserved populations.

But even with the efforts of thousands of individuals working together to achieve the collective dreams of the 193 Member States, the world has fallen short of achieving the goals it set for itself in 2000. As the global community prepares a new set of sustainable development goals, it is important to incorporate the experience of organizations like ours which have been on the front lines of fulfilling the goals as we set the agenda for the next fifteen years. In our experience, measurable goals like ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and sustainable management of water and sanitation are eminently achievable. Our projects sponsor the education of hundreds of girls in India and sub-Saharan Africa. Our Water Sanitation and Health program provides access to clean water for over 3,000 villagers in rural Andhra Pradesh. In creating new goals for sustainable development, the global community must articulate concrete, measurable goals with benchmarks that describe what success will look like.

And for that success to remain sustainable, governments and civil society will need to innovate new ways to work together to achieve the post-2015 agenda. The sustainable development goals framework should encourage cooperation not only in the implementation of development programs, but also establish monitoring mechanisms for government and civil society to evaluate these interventions together. Critically evaluating project effectiveness has always been a hallmark of our partnerships and a key contributor to the sustainability of our programs.

Most importantly, a truly sustainable development agenda must prioritize the rights and well-being of children. All the progress we make today will be for naught if the next generation is not adequately equipped to maintain the world they inherit. This requires a renewed focus on seriously combating child mortality. This also requires additional efforts to provide quality secondary education, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where advances in primary education have not been accompanied by comparable growth in opportunities for secondary education, leading to a post-primary drop-off in enrolment. Ensuring adequate secondary educational opportunities contributes substantially to all the proposed sustainable development goals from inclusive and sustainable economic growth to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

By investing in the world's children, we invest in the world's future.

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Statement submitted by Korean Association for Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

According to the global Sustainable Development report, the United Nations assesses that many activities for sustainable development actually is not conveyed to decision makers smoothly after the Rio+20 Conference. In other words, even if member countries of the United Nations voted for sustainable development goals in the United Nations General Assembly, it is quite difficult to be executed indeed by each country. The reason is that each country has its important affairs of state that should be addressed in the first place. Consequently, a smaller budget has always been allocated to the issues at the United Nations.

The Millennium Development Goals were a successful international development project, but they have been challenged by financial problems at the same time. Because the sustainable development goals cover much wider goals and issues than the Millennium Development Goals, it needs more financial assistance and each country should fully understand the reason why they need it.

There are two different approaches to achieve the sustainable development goals effectively. Firstly, recognition by the legislative body about sustainable development goals should be improved so that the government should have the active cooperation of its legislative body when they secure budget for the sustainable development goals.

Secondly, enterprises have to get actively involved. In order to induce the participation of enterprises, the practical benefits from participation can be an effective tool rather than just a suggestion for voluntary participation. Enterprises are influenced by the laws and policies of nations in many ways, so the network between the legislative body and enterprises to discuss the sustainable development goals together within framework can be a possible example. Korean association for supporting SDGs (ASD), a non-governmental organization with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, is a good alternative. At the Korean association for supporting SDGs (ASD), the cooperation between government and private sectors including system and implementation has been possible because the legislative body and enterprises have discussed together how to establish policy for the sustainable development goals. Therefore, if this initiative is applied to both developing and developed countries properly, the problems that we found with the Millennium Development Goals can be considerably resolved.

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Statement submitted by Convention of Independent Financial Advisors, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

At its XIIIth annual Forum held in Monaco on 22-24 April 2015, the Convention of Independent Financial Advisors has addressed the annual theme of the 2015 session of the Economic and Social Council entitled "Managing the Transition from Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals: What Will it Take?"

The Convention of Independent Financial Advisors participants were briefed by the High Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations who stated that the "United Nations is aware more than ever that financing for development cannot rely solely on the public sector. Engaging the private sector in the partnership to promote economic growth is the only way that the ultimate goal of reducing poverty, providing education for all, ensuring a healthy life and giving access to energy and clean water will be achieved while taking into account the necessity to protect the environment. It is the responsibility of governments to secure an environment where the private sector can generate wealth".

The Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, outlined the importance of the 5 "i" in the new strategy for the sustainable development goals and for the post-2015 development agenda which is based on: Inclusion, Integration, Investment, Innovation and Implementation. Emphasis was put on the importance of an efficient implementation of the new sustainable development goals through increased accountability at the international level, peer review at the regional level, more reliable data and new ways to engage the various stakeholders who are influential in the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

The President of Islamic Conference of Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation, noted the importance of the youth in the implementation of the post-2015 agenda. Currently, the young generation is a victim of social and economic exclusion, of high unemployment, discrimination and radicalization, which too often leads to extremism, fundamentalism and conflicts. For youth to become an agent for change, we must address the roots of these problems.

A project presentation was made on how the Millennium Development Goals were efficiently implemented for water access in the Cameroun through a partnership with the private sector and the Convention of Independent Financial Advisors. It was stated that before any partnership takes place, empowerment against extreme poverty must overcome the "lacks in basic education, in water supply, sanitation, food and energy".

Other experts at the Forum addressed the issue of economic inequalities, which seriously hamper social harmony and progress, such as access to health care and to a fair redistribution of wealth, and resources, which prevail in too many developing countries. Increasing taxation and disclosure of privileged business information have become obstacles for new investments in developing countries which, as a result, undermine economic innovation and market competition. Speculative bubbles produced by excessive quantitative currency printing are deepening the inequalities and economic stagnation in some countries, and creating market and investment insecurity, as well as deflation. The Convention of Independent Financial Advisors participants agreed that more women in global

finance should be promoted, to ensure gender equality and their genuine contribution to economic development and growth.

In conclusion, the Convention of Independent Financial Advisors participants expressed the importance for the financial and private sectors to actively contribute to the next preparatory conferences at the United Nations, such as the upcoming Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa, in order to strengthen their global partnerships with the United Nations. Participants were concerned that the current increase in public debts and deficits, as well as unrestrained taxation, will seriously jeopardize Member-States' contributions to the sustainable development goals and to the post-2015 development agenda. It was recommended that civil society and the private sector remain vigilant on budgetary discipline, accountability and transparency in national and global fiscal and taxation policies. This will avoid repetitive economic crisis which compromise world growth and progress, as well as the sustainable development goals implementation. Emphasis should be on employment for the young generations, with recognition that job creation is essentially initiated by the financial and private sectors, while governments must provide an investor-friendly climate to create an economic environment stimulating employment initiatives.

Last but not least, many of the financial concepts that were presented in this Forum, call for a cultural diversity approach. An open dialogue on these divergent concepts is needed to avoid cultural conflict and to promote instead a culture of corporate transparency and accountability worldwide.

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Statement submitted by Comité français pour l'Afrique du Sud, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

The year 2015 sees the end of the MDGs and marks the launch of a new universal sustainable development agenda for the coming decades.

Unlike the MDGs, which dealt with the various dimensions of development separately, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are to adopt a more integrated approach to human rights and place them at the centre of development programmes.

While progress has been made, the following objectives are essential for sustainable development to occur and to ensure each person dignity and a basic level of well-being:

- To combat poverty and eradicate hunger by ensuring balanced trade between North and South, making use of local expertise, respecting local natural resources, and conducting local development projects;
- To strengthen our global partnership by building developing States' capacity, transferring technologies and sharing knowledge so that every person has access to quality education and training, and thus to employment opportunities, quality health care, safe water, electricity, telecommunications and transport;
- To strengthen democracy, good governance, and the rule of law by establishing and ensuring respect for effective and transparent public institutions, by developing independent judicial institutions, and by effectively fighting corruption and impunity;
- To step up the fight against the effects of climate change by taking urgent measures to put respect for the environment at the centre of industrial projects and trade and to raise the awareness of States and individuals;
- To improve global management of forced migratory movements by strengthening the capacities of the countries of the South in terms of reception of asylum seekers and refugees and by putting in place a specific protection system for climate refugees;
- To prevent conflicts by fighting xenophobia and all forms of discrimination and strengthening the culture of non-violence through public and private educational structures and all communications networks.

A mechanism for periodic assessment of States by their peers is desirable so that progress towards achievement of the SDGs can be regularly evaluated. Civil society must be involved in that process.

The SDGs cannot be achieved if no lessons are drawn from past experiences. What now needs to be done is to take into account some targets forgotten in the previous agenda. Again, local characteristics and the context peculiar to each State need to be kept in mind, setting realistic goals that will allow each stakeholder to achieve not only quantitative but also qualitative results.

All actors in development need to be involved, as do private sector stakeholders, members of civil society, and in particular youth and women. Each State and each people, in North and South both, will have to make a commitment. And no one must be left out.

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Agenda item 5 (c)
High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by International Federation for Home Economics, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08584 (E) 090615

Please recycle

Statement

The sustainable development goals will expand on the Millennium Development Goals and will take into account the three dimensions of sustainable development. The 17 proposed new sustainable development goals include the most important global challenges and will be applicable to all developed and developing countries. They are people centred and focus on dignity, prosperity, justice, partnerships and the environment.

The transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals will require analysis of how to implement approaches to reach these goals. As the new goals are more detailed, it makes sense to analyse different levels of systems, in which people organise their everyday lives including their capacity for future sustainable development.

The household is the basic institution for managing people's lives. From a home economics perspective, the family is seen as the core of the household and critical to the community, society and the economy at large. Achieving many of the sustainable development goals depend directly on the behaviour of household members and their performance in resource management including the management of human resources.

In households, decisions are made about healthy and sustainable lifestyles, nutrition and the wellbeing of household members. The use of natural resources and energy in households has a major impact on the development of the natural environment. As capacities and choices at the basic level for individuals and households impacts local and global systems, there is a need to develop a new awareness regarding ecological, economic and social challenges at the household level in all countries.

Historically governments and stakeholders in business, industry and the economy have determined the basic conditions for families, individuals and communities around the world. In addition to these prevailing conditions, which include, basic education, health care systems, infrastructure and job opportunities, individuals should be empowered through everyday life education in home economics including sustainable behaviour to reach their full capacity for their own development.

Expanding the development goals and focusing on people and people's dignity all over the world can empower individuals to provide valuable input and partner on actions for sustainable development.

Projects around the world should focus on food production and nutrition, maternal and family health, capacity building, resource management as well as income-generation opportunities and thus demonstrate that people's empowerment is fundamental to reach the sustainable development goals.

The International Federation for Home Economics strongly recommends the use of Home Economics education to support a successful transition to the sustainable development goals.

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Statement submitted by World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08585 (E) 100615

Please recycle

Statement

The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists represents hundreds of thousands of anaesthesiologists from over 140 countries.

It is long overdue, but 2015 is the year in which strengthening surgery and anaesthesia care is finally gaining the recognition it deserves as a global health priority. From disease control priorities, essential surgery to the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery and the proposed resolution on Strengthening Surgery and Anaesthesia at the World Health Assembly, decision makers are now bearing witness to the enormity of the global surgical crisis.

It is therefore of great concern that the sustainable development goals and specifically goal 3 makes no specific mention of surgery and anaesthesia. We call upon the Economic and Social Council to take note of the following:

- 5 billion people do not have access to safe, affordable, surgical and anaesthesia care when needed.
- Of the 313 million surgical procedures undertaken worldwide each year only 6% occur in the poorest countries where over one third of the world's population lives.
- Without urgent investment in surgical scale up, low middle income countries will continue to have losses in economic productivity estimated cumulatively at US$ 12.3 trillion between 2015 and 2030.
- Provision of essential surgical procedures, together with safe anaesthesia provision, would avert an estimated 1.5 million deaths a year, or 6 percent to 7 percent of all avertable deaths in low- and middle-income countries.
- Essential surgical procedures rank among the most cost-effective of all health interventions but also require concomitant safe anaesthesia. The surgical platform of first-level hospitals delivers 28 of the 44 essential procedures, making investment in this platform also highly cost-effective.
- Estimates suggest that full coverage of the essential surgical and anaesthetic component applicable to first-level hospitals would require slightly more than $3 billion annually of additional spending and yield a benefit: cost ratio of better than 10:1.

We therefore call upon the Council to:

1. Include specific reference to "surgery and anaesthesia" in sustainable development goal 3.8 (Universal Health Coverage).

2. Include specific reference to the "surgical workforce" in goal 3.c (Health Workforce).

3. Ensure that goals and indicators for goal 3 include:

a. Health systems — perioperative mortality rate, surgical volume per 100,000 population

b. Health service access — access to timely essential surgery (% of the population that can access a facility that can perform caesarean delivery, laparotomy and open fracture)

c. Health workforce, health worker density and distribution — surgeons, anaesthesiologists and obstetric physicians per 100,000 population

Universal health coverage and the health aspirations set out in the post-2015 agenda will be impossible to achieve without ensuring that surgical and anaesthesia care is available, accessible, safe, timely and affordable.

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Statement submitted by Center for Africa Development and Progress, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08586 (E) 090615

Please recycle

Statement

There couldn't have been a more appropriate theme than the one chosen by the Economic and Social Council for its 2015 session.

The Center for Africa Development and Progress believes that the theme must have been inspired by the recognition of what humanity has achieved with the help of science and technology and the potential of science/technology to propel humanity into uncharted developmental areas.

Today, developing countries in Africa, Caribbean, Asia and Latin America are harnessing the benefits of scientific and technological innovation to improve quality healthcare delivery, fight HIV/AIDS and other deadly diseases. In agriculture, the deployment of technology has resulted in improved farming techniques, better seeds/seedlings and improved yield. Many African nations have suffered one or another form of drought, but through science and technology it is now possible to farm with very little water. No human endeavour has been impacted by technological advancements as in Communications. We have seen how the M-PESA is transforming lives in Kenya, making it possible for people to remit money to family members without going through the hustle akin to a regular commercial bank.

A nation without science and technology has no place in the 21st century. Every aspect of human live today revolves around science and technology. But leveraging technology for sustainable development does not happen in isolation. It requires an enabling environment production and deployment.

Moving on, governments would have to do more to bridge further the technological gaps that exist between the developed and developing countries. A major factor serving as a stumbling block to progress in these areas is the lack of technological know-how and financial resources.

We strongly believe that entrepreneurship is another way of fighting poverty. Training people to acquire certain skills is a way of empowering them. Through this they would become employable or self-employed.

We also believe that endowed nations should aid the less privileged countries to help them tackle technological challenges.

As a first step towards building the capacity of developing countries in technology, there is the need to overhaul existing educational systems in developing countries. The education should be tailored towards solving the peculiar needs of individual countries with science and technology being a major thrust of education. The issue of technology transfer should be taken seriously. Investors from developed countries must be required to transfer some form of technology to the country where they invest. It is not just enough to pump money into an economy without leaving behind technology that will aid in the development of that country.

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Statement submitted by Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08587 (E) 090615

Please recycle

Statement

We are in 22 countries where we promote development in ways that respect the integrity of the earth. Our projects are geared towards poverty reduction, the promotion of peaceful coexistence among peoples of different faith and ideologies.

The transition to sustainable development goals will require a change in attitude within all sectors of society including our government leaders whose task is to elaborate bold, effective and people-friendly policies. The actual implementation of the sustainable development goals faces the problems of the pandemic of escalating violence that has young people drifting towards radical extremism and the effects of climate change.

Internal conflicts that result in protracted wars are fuelled by inequalities and the feeling of exclusion among members of a society. Wars displace people, alienate them from their communities and destroy infrastructures that support sustainable development. Unable to find jobs, young people lose hope and become targets of radical extremism. Others have material riches but their lives still lack meaning due to loss of a sense for spiritual values that nourish the soul while strengthening the capacity to resist what is not life giving. Joining and going to war with radical extremists seems to fill the void that young people feel. Besides destroying the integrity of the person, weapons manufacture inflicts harm upon the environment and exacerbates the effects of climate change.

Therefore focus must be placed on climate change as well as on young people whose voice needs to be heard. Listening to them will be the key to finding the causes of them drifting towards radical extremism. Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all as indicated in goal 4 also need to include ways to help young people discover their deep spiritual values.

When placed at the centre, people experience a sense of belonging that helps them find meaning in life. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals states that "People are at the centre of sustainable development ...". This includes women, children, and youth and also people of all ages and from all walks of life who have not been given voice in the elaboration of policies that affect their lives. The cohesion that can come about with social inclusion will reward the efforts invested in the elaboration of the sustainable development goals. When people feel that they belong, they will assume the responsibility to make the post-2015 development agenda work. This requires openness, change of attitude and the willingness to risk so all will benefit.